

and the relationships between promoters, owners, and operators of facilities, performers, and sellers and resellers of entertainment and sporting event tickets, along with recommendations to achieve better ticket disclosure, information, access, and value for consumers.

The number of entertainment and sporting event tickets sold in the past few years has escalated rapidly. Based on testimony our committee received last year, the number of such tickets sold annually easily exceed 2 billion. As ticket sales have increased, so too have the methods used to sell and market such tickets. Indeed, with the advent of the communications superhighway, sellers of entertainment tickets likely will create additional avenues for selling tickets that are not feasible today.

This legislation does not inhibit these new and innovative approaches nor does it inhibit the growth of the entertainment and sporting industries or of the marketing and ticketing service industries that support them. This legislation creates no new regulations nor does it impose unreasonable burdens on business. Rather, this simple legislation merely seeks to inform the ordinary consumer who contemplates purchasing these tickets of any additional fees or charges that are added on to ticket prices.

This legislation makes it unlawful for persons who sell or resell entertainment or sporting event tickets: First, to fail to disclose to the purchaser—prior to the purchase of any such ticket—any fee, charge, or other assessment to be imposed in excess of the face amount of the ticket, and second, to fail to have the amount of any such fee, charge, or assessment printed on the ticket or on a receipt evidencing any such ticket sale.

Under the bill, this requirement will be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, an independent agency that has authority over unfair and deceptive commercial practices under the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45, et seq.). As well, State attorneys general are empowered under the bill to enforce the requirement on behalf of affected residents in their States. In this regard, the bill parallels other commercial practices legislation developed by the Committee on Energy and Commerce during the past few years, including the Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act, enacted in 1992, and the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act, enacted last year. Under the Federal Trade Commission Act, the FTC is authorized to issue cease and desist orders in appropriate cases and to impose civil penalties for each violation of the law.

I also have modified last year's bill by adding an important provision that directs the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study of ticketing practices, including an examination of relationships between and practices of various persons involved in entertainment and sporting events. I believe an in-depth examination of ticketing practices by the FTC is clearly warranted, based on testimony and evidence presented to the Subcommittee on Transportation and Hazardous Materials at its September 29, 1994, hearing on this subject. For example, I have real concerns about the impact on ticket consumers of exclusive contracts between building owners and others that limit options of potential competing services. As well, I have many questions about the manner in which

tickets are held back by many participants in the ticket food chain, so that consumers are denied any opportunity to purchase many tickets through conventional means—that is, the box office or through authorized ticket sellers—or are forced to pay exorbitant prices from ticket brokers or scalpers who mysteriously acquire the best seats in the house. If tickets are made available to the public, why are so many tickets simply unavailable to the normal consumer who cannot afford scalper's fees? This long-overdue report from the Commission should inform the Congress whether further action is necessary to provide consumers of entertainment tickets with better disclosure, information, access, and value.

At the subcommittee's hearing last fall, representatives of consumer interests and of ticket sellers indicated their support for the disclosure provisions in the bill. Unfortunately, because of the press of other business, no further action was taken with respect to the legislation. I look forward to prompt consideration and enactment of this modest legislation so that American consumers will be better informed about add-on charges they pay for entertainment and sporting event tickets and so all of us will be informed about how to achieve better disclosure, information, access, and value for ordinary consumers who seek to purchase such tickets.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JIM SCRIVNER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention the Versailles, MO, Chamber of Commerce will soon bestow the honor of citizen of the year on former Mayor Jim Scrivner.

I want to use this opportunity to call the attention to my fellow Members of Congress to the outstanding record of public service demonstrated in the life of this citizen of Missouri.

Jim Scrivner would have been considered successful if viewed only from the perspective of his business and lifelong career as an undertaker with three funeral homes in rural Missouri. He provided a home for his wife, Honey, and their daughters, and is respected in his community.

Through the years he added an ambulance service to the business. It was not financially successful, but he subsidized the service to his neighbors and the surrounding area. The nearest hospital was 40 miles from his hometown and ambulance service was a necessity.

In 1973, Jim Scrivner was elected mayor of Versailles. His term of office was marked by a series of progressive ventures. A new sewage plant, replacement of failed sewerlines in a large section of the town, new housing for low-income and elderly residents and development of a successful industrial park all were accomplished in his tenure as mayor. The people trusted his leadership to the extent that a 1-percent sales tax was passed to provide for funding for future city development.

It is fitting and proper that the people of Versailles recognize Jim Scrivner and his years of service. In doing so they focus a spotlight on the life and career of an outstanding individual. He has been successful as a family man, a businessman, and as an elected official.

I am proud to call him my friend and to take this opportunity to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my agreement with and support for the decision to honor him. His record is one we should all note and seek to emulate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I missed rollcall vote No. 99 during consideration of H.R. 666, Exclusionary Rule Reform Act on February 7, 1995. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TIME TO TAKE BACK OUR STREETS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the statistics paint a grim picture. In the past 30 years violent crime increased threefold. The American people are afraid to go out at night. Our children are afraid to go to school. It is time to take back our streets.

On November 8, Americans made it clear they did not think much of last year's liberal, hugs for thugs crime bill. They endorsed the Republican get tough approach to crime fighting. Our crime package strikes at the heart of our violent crime problem by deterring criminals from committing crimes in the first place.

No more hugs for thugs; no more phony prevention programs; and no more endless appeals or technical loopholes. Our Republican crime bill holds criminals accountable for their actions, not hold their hand. We need a criminal justice system that protects the victim, not the criminal.

Republicans are working hard to fight crime by giving police the tools to catch, convict, and confine criminals. The streets across America belong to the people, not to the thugs. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight to take back our streets.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues a tragic story of loss that struck New York and, indeed, the Nation during this past weekend's snowstorm. On Saturday, February 4, 1995, the outdoor aviary at the Bronx Zoo collapsed under the weight of a foot of snow allowing dozens of exotic birds to escape. The Harry de Jur Aviary was built in 1899 and was one of the first animal shelters built at the Bronx Zoo.

Saturday's snowstorm was wet and heavy and the foot of snow on the aviary's arch